

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims****1. (currently amended)**

A protective material with punched shaped parts, manufactured by converting process for producing single-sided or double-sided adhesive punched shaped parts from a single-sided or double sided adhesive tape, wherein the single-sided or double-sided adhesive tape is positioned on top of the protective material, the shaped parts are punched out from the single-sided or double sided adhesive tape by a punching tool via a kiss-cut process, wherein the protective material comprises a an homogeneous opaque colored polymer backing sheet ~~having a top and a bottom face, the homogeneous opaque coloring being disposed in the interior and over the full area~~ of the backing sheet, so as to avoid abrasion on the punching tool and wherein the homogeneous opaque polymer backing includes means for web edge guided optical recognition for dispensing the punched shaped parts.

**2. (currently amended)**

A protective material with punched shaped parts, manufactured by converting process for producing single-sided or double-sided adhesive punched shaped parts from a single-sided or double sided adhesive tape, wherein the single-sided or double-sided adhesive tape is positioned on top of the protective material, the shaped parts are punched out from the single-sided or double sided adhesive tape by a punching tool via a kiss-cut process, wherein the protective material comprises a backing sheet having a polymer backing including a top and a bottom face, and an homogeneous opaque color layer is applied to the bottom face of the polymer backing and wherein the polymer backing includes means for web edge guided optical recognition for dispensing the punched shaped parts..

**3. (previously presented)**

The protective material as claimed in claim 2, wherein the opaque color layer is applied over the full bottom face area of the backing.

## 4. (previously presented)

The protective material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the opaque polymer backing is one of a polyester, polystyrene, polyamide or polyimide.

## 5. (previously presented)

The protective material as claimed in claim 4, wherein the opaque polymer backing is a polyester having a thickness of from 12 to 150  $\mu\text{m}$ .

## 6. (previously presented)

The protective material as claimed in claim 4, wherein the opaque polymer backing includes an anti-adhesive coating on the top and/or the bottom face.

## 7. (previously presented)

The protective material as claimed in claim 6, wherein the anti-adhesive coating is one of a silicone-free layer, a low-silicone layer, silicone layer, paraffin layer, Teflon layer or a wax layer.

## 8. (previously presented)

The protective material as claimed in claim 2, further comprising an anti-adhesive layer applied to the polymer backing and wherein the opaque color layer is applied on the same side of the protective material facing the adhesive tape.

## 9. (previously presented)

The protective material as claimed in claim 2, wherein the opaque color layer is applied to the polymer backing at from 0.5 to 20  $\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ .

## 10. (previously presented)

The protective material as claimed in claim 2, wherein the opaque color layer is dyed silicone.

## 11. (currently amended)

A method for using a polymer backing as a backing sheet in a protective material for a single-sided or double-sided adhesive tape, comprising the steps of  
providing a wherein the polymer backing has having a top and a bottom face and is  
provided with and a full-area e of homogeneous opaque color layer on the top or on the  
bottom face and

providing the polymer backing with means for web edge guided optical recognition  
for dispensing the punched shaped parts.

## 12. (currently amended)

The method for using the polymer backing of claim 11, wherein the opaque polymer backing is a polyester backing.

Claim 13 (canceled).

## 14. (previously presented)

The protective material as claimed in claim 5, wherein the opaque polyester backing has a thickness of from about 25 to 75 $\mu$ m.

## 15. (previously presented)

The protective material as claimed in claim 14, wherein the opaque polyester backing has a thickness of from about 36 to 50 $\mu$ m.

## 16. (previously presented)

The protective material as claimed in claim 9, wherein the opaque color layer is applied to the polymer backing at from about 4 to 8 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

## 17. (previously presented)

The protective material as claimed in claim 16, wherein the opaque color layer is applied to the polymer backing at from about 5 to 7 g./m<sup>2</sup>.

## 18. (currently amended)

A protective material with punched shaped parts, manufactured by converting process for producing single-sided or double-sided adhesive punched shaped parts from a single-sided or double sided adhesive tape, comprising

a single-sided or double-sided adhesive tape positioned on top of the protective material, the shaped parts are punched out from the single-sided or double sided adhesive tape by a punching tool via a kiss-cut process, wherein the protective material comprises a homogeneous opaque colored polymer backing sheet ~~having a top and a bottom face~~, the opaque coloring being disposed in the interior of the backing sheet, so as to maintain a substantial stable electrical conductivity of the backing sheet and wherein the homogeneous opaque polymer backing includes means for web edge guided optical recognition for dispensing the punched shaped parts.

## 19. (new)

A protective material with punched shaped parts, manufactured by converting process for producing single-sided or double-sided adhesive punched shaped parts from a single-sided or double sided adhesive tape, wherein

the single-sided or double-sided adhesive tape is positioned on top of the protective material,

the shaped parts are punched out from the single-sided or double sided adhesive tape by a punching tool via a kiss-cut process, wherein the protective material comprises a backing sheet having side edges and wherein the backing sheet includes a color layer at the side edges, forming colored strips.

## 20. (new)

The protective material with punched shaped parts according to claim 19, wherein at least one colored strip of one side edge includes holes or notches for guidance for optical recognition during dispensing of the punched shaped parts.